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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent Application of Edward T. Buford, III

Serial No: 09/912,692

Group Art Unit:

Filed: 7/26/2001

Examiner: R. Chin

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20321

Sir:

## RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 6, 2006

This is in response to the Office Action mailed November 6, 2006, in respect of the above-identified patent application.

Based upon the action taken by the Examiner on the claims submitted for examination, Applicant submits that the Examiner's rejection of claims 12 through 16 and 18 based upon 35 U. S. C. 112 and 35 U. S. C. 102 and 103 are incontrovertible. Specifically, Applicant concedes that the referenced claims, as written, cannot be approved over the known prior art.

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claim 17, and accepts the action. In this connection, Applicant asserts that the essence of the invention is directed towards a toothbrush including a bristle as characterized in claim 17. Accordingly, Applicant has added new claim 19 that embodies the elements of claim 17, as applied to a toothbrush.